IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider and amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image of a first object using images obtained of said first object, the method including the steps of;

    (i)   obtaining a plurality of images of a first object from multiple positions about a substantially horizontal plane;[[, and]]

    (ii)   creating foreground and background layers of the first object within said image;[[, and]]

    (iii)   forming a 3-dimensional image of said first object from the images obtained;[[,]] and

    (iv)   converting said 3-dimensional image obtained into a desirable format for compositing purposes.

2.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 2, ~~where~~ wherein the first object is a hair style prepared on a model head.

3.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 or~~ claim 2, wherein background layer image content is extrapolated using a reflected copy of an opposed image.

4.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 2 any one of claims 2 or 3, wherein the creation of foreground and background layers is completed through executing the steps of:[[;]]

      (a)   cropping the hair out of each image;[[, and]]

      (b)   loading the cropped hair images into an alignment process;[[,]] and

      (c)   defining foreground and background hair layers within each image.

5.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 4, wherein said method of creating foreground and background layers includes the following subsequent step of:[[;]]

      (d)   animating said plurality of images to identify alignment inconsistencies between images.

6.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 4 any one of claims 4 or 5, wherein hair layers are defined by following perspective lines in the hair style.

7.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 4 any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the hair style to be represented is feathered to obtain a smooth transition between the layers defined.

8.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 1 any previous claim, wherein an alpha-blending process is

3

is applied to a foreground layer of an image.

9.　(Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 1 any previous claim, wherein the images converted into a format desirable for compositing are stored in an electronic file format which stores a plurality of sequential images from a common layer within a single file.

10.　(Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 9, wherein the file format selected stores uncompressed pixel data.

11.　(Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of forming an approximation of a 3-dimensional image as claimed in claim 9 claims 9 or 10, wherein a file is stored for each layer present in the 3- dimensional image of the first object.

Claims 12-17 Canceled.

18.　(Currently Amended) A method of compositing multiple images to form an approximation of a 3- dimensional image, said method being characterized by the execution of the steps of:[[;]]

　　a.　obtaining a 3-dimensional image of a first object converted into a desirable format; as claimed in claim 1, and

　　b.　obtaining a 3-dimensional image of a second object, the second object including a face; in a desirable format as claimed in claim 14, and

　　c.　combining each of the corresponding pixels of the images of the first and second objects.

4

19.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 18, wherein the resulting composite 3-dimensional image is delivered to a remote user using a client software application via a computer network and a server software application.

20.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 18 any one of claims 18 or 19, wherein the composite 3-dimensional image is generated by a server software application and transmitted to a remote client software application.

21.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 19 any one of claims 18 to 20, wherein the server software application is adapted to execute the steps of;

        a.   retrieving a 3-dimensional image of a hair style as claimed in claim 2, and retrieving a 3-dimensional image of a face as claimed in claim 14;

        b.   taking an initial pixel from the foreground hair layer image, an initial corresponding pixel from a face image and an initial corresponding pixel from a background hair layer image and combining them; and

        c.   repeating step b. for all subsequent pixels of the corresponding image of the hair style and the corresponding image of the face.

22.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 21, wherein the server software application is adapted to execute the steps of:[[;]]

        d.   compressing the resultant composite image and transmitting it to a user:[[,]]

5

user:[[,]] and

      e.   repeating steps b. to d. for all subsequent images of the hair style and the face.

23.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of compositing multiple images as claimed in claim 21, wherein the server software application is adapted to execute the further subsequent steps of:[[;]]

      d.   storing of the resultant composite image for compilation into an animated format:[[,]] and

      e.   repeating steps b. to d. for all subsequent images of the hair style and the face.

24.   Canceled.

25.   Canceled.